

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SCA-01 L-02 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5490

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 101

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, MX

SUBJECT: VISIT WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA: U.S. PRISONERS

REF: MEXICO 96 (NODIS)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM THE AMBASSADOR

1. ON CLOSING MY VISIT TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA, I RAISED THE MATTER OF U.S. PRISONERS. I STRESSED OUR APPRECIATION OF NEED TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFIC AND EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION FOR MEXICO'S FINE COOPERATION IN THIS EFFORT. NEVERTHELESS, THE DILEMMA AROSE OF THE EXTENDING OF ADEQUATE CONSULAR PROTECTION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS JAILED AS A RESULT OF DRUG CHARGES OR FOR OTHER REASONS, AND I POINTED OUT GROWING U.S. PRESS AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST IN THIS FIELD. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE HAD RECENTLY BECOME AWARE OF THE PROBLEM THROUGH PRESS QUERIES AND AGREED ENTIRELY THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR OF LEGAL RIGHTS ON INTERROGATION AND THAT PRISONERS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO EXTORTION OR MISTREATMENT IN JAIL. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE MATTER OF PRISONERS WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONTROVERSIAL AND MIGHT BECOME A PROBLEM WHICH AFFECTED U.S./MEXICAN RELATIONS, AND HE AGREED TO GIVE THE MATTER SOME PERSONAL ATTENTION.

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Message Attributes

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